AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER (AC)

NAVY

Navy Air Traffic Controllers (AC) perform duties similar to civilian air traffic controllers and play a key role in the effective use of Naval airpower throughout the world in operational and training environments. Navy ACs are responsible for safely and effectively directing aircraft operating from airfields or the decks of aircraft carriers. They also control the movement of aircraft and vehicles on airfield taxiways and issue flight instructions to pilots by radio.

Standards for entry into the AC field are high, but once accepted into the field, Navy ACs enjoy a demanding and highly rewarding career. This is a five-year enlistment program.

What They Do

Specific duties include:

• controlling and directing air traffic at airfields and on aircraft carriers using radio, radar, and other signaling devices;
• providing aircraft with critical information on other air traffic, navigation systems, and airfield conditions essential to safe operations;
• operating and adjusting computer-based ground/carrier-controlled navigation and radar approach systems;
• interpreting data shown on radar screens and plotting aircraft positions;
• maintaining aeronautical charts and maps.

Credit Recommendations

The American Council on Education recommends that semester hour credits be awarded in the vocational certificate or lower-division bachelor's/associate's degree categories for courses taken in this rating on air traffic control and management, and federal aviation regulations.

Qualifications and Interests

Applicants for the AC rating must be at least 18 years old and must pass a flight physical prior to entering "A" school. The ability to speak clearly is essential in this rating. Applicants must have no speech impediment and be able to clearly speak English. Applicants will be required to pass a Read-Aloud test as part of their flight physical. Applicants must be U.S. citizens eligible for a security clearance and have no history of drug abuse (no waivers permitted). Normal hearing and normal color perception are required. Vision must be better than 20/200 and correctable to 20/20.

Applicants should have an interest in aviation and working with or around aircraft. They should prefer to do detailed work and work as a team member. Applicants should have a good memory and should be able to perform quick mental math calculations. They should be comfortable with computers and with graphical orientations such as on maps or charts.

Working Environment

ACs usually work in clean, office-like environments at naval air stations and on-board aircraft carriers. They work closely with others, are closely supervised, and do mostly mental work.

Opportunities

The opportunities to enter the AC rating are excellent for qualified candidates. Currently, about 2,500 men and women work in the AC rating.

Civilian, Federal, and Military Sealift Command Related Occupations

To see Related Civilian, Federal, and Military Sealift Command Occupations for this rating:
AC
https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/enlisted/ac.htm

Career Path After Recruit Training

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals through formal Navy schooling. Advanced technical and operational training is available in this rating during later stages of career development.

School	Present Location	Approximate Training Time	Subjects	Training Methods
Class "A" Technical School	Pensacola, FL	20 weeks	Fundamentals of Air Traffic Control, radar, and radio communications	Group Instruction and simulators

Following "A" school, air traffic controllers spend one to two years gaining additional skills through on-the-job training at their first duty station. This consists of additional lab, lecture, and individual training leading to certification at an airfield facility. ACs are stationed in traffic control centers on aircraft carriers or at air traffic control facilities in the United States or overseas. During a 20-year period in the Navy, ACs spend approximately 30 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 70 percent to shore stations; many of the shore stations may be located overseas.

Navy LaDR (Learning and Development Roadmap

LaDR

To see the Navy LaDR (Learning and Development Roadmap for this rating:
AC
https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/LaDR/ac_e1_e9.pdf

College Credits for this Rating

To see the college credits available via a Joint Service Transcript for this rating
AC
https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/jst/ac_jst.pdf

Additional Information

For more information on opportunities available for this rating, please visit Navy Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL)
AC
https://www.cool.navy.mil/usn/enlisted/ac.htm

Since Navy programs and courses are revised at times, the information contained on this rating card is subject to change.

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